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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/590,705

06/14/2007

Shin-ichi Hashimoto

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04/07/2008

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EXAMINER

MEAH, MOHAMMAD Y

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1652

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/07/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/590,705	Applicant(s) HASHIMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner MD. YOUNUS MEAH	Art Unit 1652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/14/06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The claims 1-26 are pending in the instant office action.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions, which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claims1-15, drawn to method of production of amino acid using microorganism expressing polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO: 3.

Group II, claims1-15, drawn to method of production of amino acid using microorganism expressing polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO: 5.

Group III, claims1-15, drawn to method of production of amino acid using microorganism expressing polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO: 7.

Group IV, claims1-15, drawn to method of production of amino acid using microorganism expressing polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO: 9.

Group V, claims1-15, drawn to method of production of amino acid using microorganism expressing polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO: 11.

Group VI, claims1-15, drawn to method of production of amino acid using microorganism expressing polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO: 13.

Group VII, claims1-15,, drawn to method of production of amino acid using microorganism expressing polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO: 15.

Group VIII, claims16-26 , drawn to microorganism and plasmid expressing polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO: 3.

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Group IX, claims 16-26, drawn to microorganism and plasmid expressing polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO: 5.

Group X, claims 16-26, drawn to microorganism and plasmid expressing polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO: 7.

Group XI, claims 16-26, drawn to microorganism and plasmid expressing polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO: 9.

Group XII, claims 16-26, drawn to microorganism and plasmid expressing polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO: 11.

Group XIII, claims 16-26, drawn to microorganism and plasmid expressing polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO: 13.

Group XIV, claims 16-26, drawn to microorganism and plasmid expressing polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO: 15.

The inventions listed in Groups I-XIV do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

The technical features of Groups VIII -XIV are products having different technical features. Such as microorganism of group VIII express polynucleotide having different structure than that of microorganism of group IX and so on.

The technical feature of Groups I-VIII is the method steps using particular reagents, in this case different transformant expressing different polynucleotide variants. The method step of group I uses a reagent which is not shared with group II method step, so on claims. Thus, the technical feature of Group V is not shared with group VI and so on.

Groups I & VIII, groups II & IX and so on, pair share a technical feature, a product transformant expressing a polynucleotide, thus Group I claims use the product of group VIII in

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their method step and that of group II use that of group IX and so on.. However technical feature linking group I-XIV, microorganism expressing NADH dehydrogenase, does not constitute a "special technical feature" as defined by PCT Rule 13.2, because it does not claim a feature which defines a contribution over the prior art as microorganism expressing NADH dehydrogenase is taught by Matsushita et al. (FEMS Microbiol Lett 2001, pp271-276. from IDS).

4. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.
5. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement is traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad Meah whose telephone number is 571-272-1261. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapu Achutamurthy can be reached on 571-272-0928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Mohammad Meah/

Acting Examiner of Art Unit 1652/1600

Mohammad Younus Meah, PhD

Examiner, Art Unit 1652

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